

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO
WESTERN DIVISION AT DAYTON**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,	:	Case No. 3:24-CR-81
	:	
Plaintiff,	:	District Judge Michael J. Newman
	:	Magistrate Judge Peter B. Silvain, Jr.
vs.	:	
	:	
STEVEN J. WERLING,	:	
	:	
Defendant.	:	

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION¹

This case came before the Court for a plea hearing on November 20, 2024. Assistant United States Attorney Nicholas Dingeldein appeared and represented the Government. Defendant was present at the hearing and was represented by Attorney Bradley Dean Anderson.

Prior to the hearing, the parties entered into a proposed binding plea agreement pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 11(c)(1)(C), which agreement has been filed of record. (Doc. #40). Under the terms of the plea agreement, Defendant agreed to plead guilty to Count One as charged in the Information currently pending against him, which charges him with Possession of an Unregistered Firearm, specifically a destructive device, in violation of Title 26 U.S.C. §§ 5841, 5861(d), and 5871.

During the plea hearing, the undersigned had the opportunity to address Defendant in open court and to inform Defendant of all rights and privileges as set forth in Fed. R. Crim. P. 11(b)(1). Further, the undersigned carefully inquired of Defendant regarding his understanding of the agreement, as well as his competence to understand the agreement. Having fully inquired, the

¹ Attached is a NOTICE to the parties regarding objections to this Report and Recommendation.

undersigned Judicial Officer finds that Defendant's tendered plea of guilty to Count One as charged in the Information was knowing, intelligent, and voluntary. Additionally, based upon the statement of facts, which were read into the record and affirmed by Defendant, the undersigned finds that there is a sufficient factual basis for finding that Defendant is in fact guilty of Possession of an Unregistered Firearm, specifically a destructive device, in violation of Title 26 U.S.C. §§ 5841, 5861(d), and 5871.

Based upon the foregoing, it is **RECOMMENDED** that the District Court accept Defendant's plea of guilty to Count One as charged in the Information currently pending against him and find him guilty as charged of Possession of an Unregistered Firearm, specifically a destructive device, in violation of Title 26 U.S.C. §§ 5841, 5861(d), and 5871.

Pending the Court's acceptance of Defendant's guilty plea, Defendant has been referred to the Probation Department for a pre-sentence investigation and report.

March 19, 2025

s/Peter B. Silvain, Jr.

Peter B. Silvain, Jr.
United States Magistrate Judge

NOTICE REGARDING OBJECTIONS

Pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 59(b)(2), any party may serve and file specific, written objections to the proposed findings and recommendations within **FOURTEEN** days after being served with this Report and Recommendation. Such objections shall specify the portions of the Report objected to and shall be accompanied by a memorandum of law in support of the objections. If the Report and Recommendation is based in whole or in part upon matters occurring of record at an oral hearing, the objecting party shall promptly arrange for the transcription of the record, or such portions of it as all parties may agree upon or the Magistrate Judge deems sufficient, unless the assigned District Judge otherwise directs. A party may respond to another party's objections within **FOURTEEN** days after being served with a copy thereof.

Failure to make objections in accordance with this procedure may forfeit rights on appeal. *See Thomas v. Arn*, 474 U.S. 140 (1985); *United States v. Walters*, 638 F.2d 947, 949-50 (6th Cir. 1981).